

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20

DRC-01 /127 W

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O 250738Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4508

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

DIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EAGR, TH

SUBJ: FARMERS DEMONSTRATION IN BANGKOK

REF: A. FBIS D250245Z JUN 74; B. FBIS D231119Z JUN 74.

C. BANGKOK 9902

1. REF A IS A JUNE 24 "BANGKOK POST" REPORT THAT MORE THAN 500 FARMERS WERE HOLDING AN ALL-NIGHT VIGIL OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT INACTION IN RESOLVING THEIR LAND TENURE GRIEVANCES. AS OF 1100 HOURS LOCAL TIME JUNE 25, AN EMBASSY POLITICAL ASSISTANT REPORTED SEEING ABOUT 300 FARMERS SITTING IN AN ORDERLY FASHION IN FRONT OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE. FARMER LEADERS WERE ADDRESSING THE GATHERING. THERE WERE A FEW STUDENTS TALKING WITH THE FARMERS, BUT NO EVIDENCE OF ORGANIZED STUDENT SUPPORT FOR THE DEMONSTRATION. ACCORDING TO ONE DEMONSTRATING FARMER, THERE WRE ABOUT 500 FARMERS

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PRESENT YESTERDAY BUT SOME DEPARTED LAST NIGHT.

2. THE FARMERS SEEMED DETERMINED TO STAY IN FRONT OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT MAKES SOME STATEMENT TO SATISFY THEM. THE CABINET WILL DISCUSS THE FARMERS' GRIEVANCES AT ITS REGULAR MEETING JUNE 25 AND THE DEMONSTRATORS WILL THEN PRESUMABLY DECIDE WHETHER TO CONTINUE THEIR PROTEST, DEPENDING ON THE CABINET'S DECISION.

3. COMMENT: THE LAND TENURE ISSUE IS COMPLICATED AND NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO QUICK SOLUTIONS. ONE POLITICIAN TOLD US THAT THE PROBLEM RESULTS PRIMARILY FROM POOR MONEY MANAGEMENT BY THAI FARMERS WHO MORTGAGE THEIR LAND TO OBTAIN CASH, AND THEN ARE UNABLE TO REPAY THE LOANS. ALTHOUGH A QUICK SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS UNLIKELY, WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME FORESEE THIS DEMONSTRATION GETTING OUT OF CONTROL OR THREATENING THE STABILITY OF THE SANYA GOVERNMENT.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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